



City of Arts & Innovation

News Release

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Jury Decides in Favor of Riverside, Three Police Officers, in Use of Force Case

Unanimous decision finds that use of lethal force was reasonable under the circumstances

RIVERSIDE, Calif. – An eight-member jury reached a unanimous verdict today in favor of the City of Riverside and three of its police officers in connection with a 2012 use-of-force case.

The jury deliberated less than three hours before reaching the verdict in Riverside Federal Court, finding that the officers' use of force was reasonable under the circumstances.

The plaintiffs had asserted state law causes of action for wrongful death, battery and negligent infliction of emotional distress, along with a federal law cause of action for violation of civil rights.

"The City of Riverside has maintained from the beginning that its officers acted appropriately under very difficult circumstances," City Attorney Gregory P. Priamos said. "We are gratified that the jury agreed."

The case stemmed from a Jan. 7, 2012 incident in which police responded to a domestic violence call at the home of David and Rebecca Ledezma in the 10700 block of Cypress Avenue in Riverside. Officers made contact with David Ledezma, 52, and a confrontation occurred that led to an officer-involved shooting.

The City and its officers were represented by Supervising Deputy City Attorney James "Jeb" Brown and Special Counsel John Porter of Lewis Brisbois.

The Riverside County District Attorney's office had previously reviewed the case and decided in October 2012 that it would not seek charges against the officers.

"What began as a domestic violence call escalated into a confrontation, and the officers involved had no choice but to use force in response to that threat," Priamos said. "This incident demonstrates what a difficult a job our police officers do every day."